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EXAMINER

VINCENT, S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2765

DATE MAILED:

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02/18/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/100,133

Applicant(s)

CONMY ET AL.

Examiner

Steven F Vincent

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 1998.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 June 1998 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☐ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 14) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 15) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 16) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.

- 17) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 18) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 19) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 to 16 are presented for examination.

Drawings

2. The drawings filed on June 19, 1998 are acceptable subject to correction of the informalities indicated on the attached "Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review," PTO-948. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1 to 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hotaling et al (US 5,124,912) issued June 23, 1992. Hotaling disclosed a meeting management device to determine "the optimal meeting date and time for a specified group of invitees within a set of specified time parameters. A subset of the invitees are designated as critical along with any specified pieces of equipment and desired meeting sites."

Claim 1.

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A system for scheduling time intervals for a plurality of users comprising:

database means associated with one or more server means for storing a profile for each potential invitee of the system, the invitee profiles comprising user profiles wherein each user profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for that user and the electronic mail address for the user;

Hotaling discloses databases in the paragraph starting on column 3, line 4; information about availability of an invitee is shown in the paragraph starting on column 7, line 22; and the electronic mail address is shown in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 52.

request generating means, connected over a network to the one or more server means, for generating a request for allocation of a time interval for one or more of the plurality of invitees;

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 35.

busy time determination means for gathering the profiles for the plurality of invitees that were requested by the request generating means and that are available in the databases and determining whether those invitees are available during the time interval requested by the request generating means; and

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 35.

means for scheduling the meeting by using the electronic mail address in the profile to send each available requested invitee an invitation to attend at the requested time interval.

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Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 52.

Claim 2.

The system of claim 1 wherein the invitee profiles comprise resource profiles regarding one or more resources wherein each resource profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for the resource.

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 56 which states: "Another feature of the present invention enables equipment and meeting places to be specified and compared with specified invitees for common available dates and times. In this case the management routine determines common available dates and times, within the specified time requirements, of user specified invitees, specified equipment and specified meeting places."

Claim 3.

The system of claim 2 wherein the resources include rooms and wherein the profile comprises information about the capacity of the room.

This feature is shown in Fig. 7a of Hotaling.

Claim 4.

The system of claim 3 wherein the resources include equipment.

This feature is shown in Fig 8a of Hotaling, and in the paragraph starting on column 6, line 51.

Claim 5.

A system for scheduling time intervals for a plurality of users comprising:

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one or more databases, associated with one more servers, which store a profile for each potential invitee of the system, the invitee profiles comprising user profiles wherein each user profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for that user and the electronic mail address for the user;

Hotaling discloses databases in the paragraph starting on column 3, line 4; information about availability of an invitee is shown in the paragraph starting on column 7, line 22; and the electronic mail address is shown in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 52.

one or more user workstations, connected over a network to the servers, operating a calendaring system that permits a user to request allocation of a time interval for one or more of the plurality of invitees;

This is disclosed in the paragraph of Hotaling starting on column 13, line 33, which states: "It is understood that Meeting Management 19 can be incorporated in a network of computer systems each having a scheduling file of different groups of people. In such a network, users may query either local or remote scheduling objects for availability of invitees, conference rooms or equipment."

wherein the calendaring system gathers the profiles for the one or more requested invitees that are available in the databases and determines whether those invitees are available during the requested time interval; and

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 35 which states: "In the present invention a common available date and time in which to

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schedule a meeting is determined without directly accessing each invitee's personal calendar. Instead a separate data file containing the available dates and times of each potential invitee is used with a computer management routine. Within a user specified range of desired meeting dates and times and time duration, the management routine compares available dates and times from the data file of user specified invitees. The comparison results in a determination of at least one common date and time of all specified invitees within the specified time requirements or a determination of up to five common available dates and times of the specified invitees within the specified time requirements. A determined common available date and time is then selected and the meeting may be scheduled for the same."

wherein the calendaring system invites the invitees using the electronic mail address stored in the profile for the invitee.

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 52.

Claim 6.

A process for scheduling time intervals for a plurality of users comprising:

storing a profile for each potential invitee of the system on a database associated with one or more network servers, the invitee profiles comprising user profiles wherein each user profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for that user and the electronic mail address for the user;

Hotaling discloses databases in the paragraph starting on column 3, line 4; information about availability of an invitee is shown in the paragraph starting on column

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7, line 22; and the electronic mail address is shown in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 52.

receiving a request for allocation of a time interval for one or more of the plurality of invitees from a remote workstation over a network at the one or more servers;

This is disclosed in the paragraph of Hotaling starting on column 13, line 33, which states: "It is understood that Meeting Management 19 can be incorporated in a network of computer systems each having a scheduling file of different groups of people. In such a network, users may query either local or remote scheduling objects for availability of invitees, conference rooms or equipment."

gathering the profiles for the one or more requested invitees that are available in the databases;

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 35.

determining whether those invitees are available during the requested time interval; and

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 35 which states: "In the present invention a common available date and time in which to schedule a meeting is determined without directly accessing each invitee's personal calendar. Instead a separate data file containing the available dates and times of each potential invitee is used with a computer management routine. Within a user specified range of desired meeting dates and times and time duration, the management routine compares available dates and times from the data file of user specified invitees. The

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comparison results in a determination of at least one common date and time of all specified invitees within the specified time requirements or a determination of up to five common available dates and times of the specified invitees within the specified time requirements. A determined common available date and time is then selected and the meeting may be scheduled for the same."

inviting the available invitees to attend at the requested time interval using the electronic mail address stored in the profile for those invitees.

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 52.

Claim 7.

A computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for enabling group calendaring between a plurality of users on a computer system, the system comprising a database, associated with one or more servers, which stores a profile for each potential invitee of the system, the invitee profiles comprising user profiles wherein each user profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for that user and the electronic mail address for the user, the computer readable program code means in said computer usable medium comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a server to receive a request for allocation of a time interval for one or more of the plurality of invitees;

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 35 which states: "In the present invention a common available date and time in which to

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schedule a meeting is determined without directly accessing each invitee's personal calendar. Instead a separate data file containing the available dates and times of each potential invitee is used with a computer management routine. Within a user specified range of desired meeting dates and times and time duration, the management routine compares available dates and times from the data file of user specified invitees. The comparison results in a determination of at least one common date and time of all specified invitees within the specified time requirements or a determination of up to five common available dates and times of the specified invitees within the specified time requirements. A determined common available date and time is then selected and the meeting may be scheduled for the same."

computer readable program code means for causing the server to gather the profiles for the one or more requested invitees;

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 35.

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to determine whether those invitees are available during the requested time interval; and

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 35.

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to invite the available invitees to attend at the requested time interval using the electronic mail address stored in the profile for each invitee.

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 52

Claim 8.

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The system of claim 5, wherein the invitee profiles comprise resource profiles regarding one or more resources, wherein each resource profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for the resources.

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 56 which states: "Another feature of the present invention enables equipment and meeting places to be specified and compared with specified invitees for common available dates and times. In this case the management routine determines common available dates and times, within the specified time requirements, of user specified invitees, specified equipment and specified meeting places."

Claim 9.

The system of claim 8, wherein the resources include rooms and wherein the profile comprises information about the capacity of the rooms.

This feature is shown in Fig. 7a of Hotaling

Claim 10.

The system of claim 9 wherein the resources include equipment.

This feature is shown in Fig. 8a of Hotaling, and in the paragraph starting on column 6, line 51.

Claim 11.

The process of claim 6, wherein the invitee profiles comprise resource profiles regarding one or more resources, wherein each resource profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for the resources.

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Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 56 which states: "Another feature of the present invention enables equipment and meeting places to be specified and compared with specified invitees for common available dates and times. In this case the management routine determines common available dates and times, within the specified time requirements, of user specified invitees, specified equipment and specified meeting places."

Claim 12.

The process of claim 11, wherein the resources include rooms and wherein the profile comprises information about the capacity of the rooms.

This feature is shown in Fig. 7a of Hotaling

Claim 13.

The process of claim 11, wherein the resources include equipment.

This feature is shown in Fig 8a of Hotaling, and in the paragraph starting on column 6, line 51.

Claim 14.

The medium of claim 7, wherein the invitee profiles comprise resource profiles regarding one or more resources, wherein each resource profile comprises information regarding available and unavailable times for the resources.

Hotaling discloses this feature in the paragraph starting on column 1, line 56 which states: "Another feature of the present invention enables equipment and meeting places to be specified and compared with specified invitees for common available dates

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and times. In this case the management routine determines common available dates and times, within the specified time requirements, of user specified invitees, specified equipment and specified meeting places."

Claim 15.

The medium of claim 14, wherein the resources include rooms and wherein the profile comprises information about the capacity of the rooms.

This feature is shown in Fig. 7a of Hotaling

Claim 16.

The medium of claim 15, wherein the resources include equipment.

This feature is shown in Fig 8a of Hotaling, and in the paragraph starting on column 6, line 51.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Zhang et al. (US 6,016,478), filed on August 13, 1996, discloses an Internet scheduling system that can be used to schedule conference rooms and equipment.

Steadham, Jr. et al. (US 5,634,016), issued on May 27, 1997, discloses an event management system with a database.

Parad (US 5,369,570), issued on November 29, 1994, discloses a resource management system with applications to scheduling.

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3 Patents from Cree et al. (US 4,866,611, US 4,817,018 and US 4,807,155), issued in 1989, disclose an event calendaring system.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven F Vincent whose telephone number is 703-305-9694.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan MacDonald can be reached on 703-305-9708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-1396 for regular communications and 703-308-1396 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-3900.

Steven F. Vincent
February 1, 2000


ERIC W. STAMBER
PRIMARY EXAMINER